

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8 are pending in the present application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Cabrera et al. (U.S. Patent 6,123,359, herein "Cabrera"); Claims 1 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cabrera in view of Katsuda et al. (U.S. Patent 6,116,643, herein "Katsuda"); and Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cabrera in view of Katsuda and further in view of Osborne et al. (U.S. Patent 5,531,474, herein "Osborne").

Figure 1 has been amended for clarification. Specifically, the arrows "3a" and "3e" are amended as shown in red on the annotated sheet to avoid misunderstanding. No new matter is added thereby.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Cabrera. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 of the present application is directed to a gas generator that includes *inter alia* a housing including an upper lid and a lower lid joined together. The upper lid has a bowl shape and provided with gas discharge holes. The lower lid has a bowl shape and includes a side cylinder portion and a bottom plate that has a thickened wall portion. The lower lid also includes an ignitor holding portion that is formed integrally with the bottom plate on the thickened wall portion.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 1 illustrates a gas generator G1 that includes a housing 4 including an upper lid 2 and a lower lid 3 joined together. The upper lid 2 has a bowl shape and provided with gas discharge holes 8. The lower lid 3 has a bowl shape and includes a side cylinder portion 1b and a bottom plate 3f that has a thickened wall portion 3e.

The lower lid 3 also includes an ignitor holding portion 3a that is formed integrally with the bottom plate 3f on the thickened wall portion 3e.

Applicants respectfully submit that, by providing such a thickened wall portion, it is possible to reduce thickness of portions of the lower lid other than the thickened wall portion to thereby reduce a weight of the gas generator, and is also possible to reduce the size of the gas generator when a same quantity of gas generating agent is loaded.

As depicted in the drawing labeled Appendix A, which is an enlarged view of Figure 1 of the present application, the thickened wall portion 3e has a thickness of "H," and is thicker than the portion of lower lid 3 having a thickness of "h." In contrast to Claim 8 of the present application, the portion of Figure 3 of Cabrera (attached hereto as Appendix B), indicated as "thickened wall portion" in the outstanding Office Action, does not disclose the claimed thickened wall portion. Specifically, the "thickened wall portion" indicated in the Office Action is believed to be in a radial direction of an inflator 10 (see Appendix B). Thus, the Applicants submit that Cabrera does not disclose a thickened wall portion defined in Claim 8 such that an ignitor holder portion is formed integrally with the bottom plate on the thickened wall portion.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 8 defines over Cabrera.

Claims 1 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cabrera and Katsuda. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the present application is also directed to a gas generator that includes *inter alia* a single cylinder housing that includes an upper lid and a lower lid joined together. The upper lid has a bowl shape and includes a top plate portion and a side cylinder portion extending downward. The side cylinder portion is provided with gas discharge holes. The lower lid has a bowl shape and includes a side cylinder portion and a bottom plate portion

that has a thickened wall portion. The lower lid also includes an ignitor holding portion that is formed integrally with the bottom plate on the thickened wall portion.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 1 shows a gas generator G1 that includes *inter alia* a single cylinder housing 4 that includes an upper lid 2 and a lower lid 3 joined together. The upper lid 2 has a bowl shape and includes a top plate portion 2a and a side cylinder portion 1a extending downward. The side cylinder portion 1a is provided with gas discharge holes 8. The lower lid 3 has a bowl shape and includes a side cylinder portion 1b and a bottom plate portion 3f that has a thickened wall portion 3e. The lower lid 3 also includes an ignitor holding portion 3a that is formed integrally with the bottom plate 3f on the thickened wall portion 3e.

As discussed above, Cabrera does not disclose the claimed thickened wall portion. Further, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Katsuda, Katsuda also does not disclose the claimed thickened wall portion.

Because neither Cabrera nor Katsuda discloses the claimed thickened wall portion as recited in Claim 1 of the present application, even the combined teachings of these cited references would not in any way render the structure recited in Claim 1 of the present application obvious.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cabrera, Katsuda and Osborne. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 depends on Claim 1, which as discussed above defines over Cabrera and Katsuda. Further, as shown in Figure 3 of Osborne, Osborne also does not disclose the claimed thickened wall portion. Therefore, by virtue of its dependency on Claim 1, Claim 2 is also believed to define over Cabrera, Katusda and Osborne.

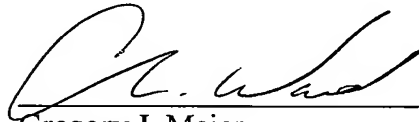
Because none of Cabrera, Katusda and Osborne discloses the claimed thickened portion, even the combined teachings of these cited references would not in any way render the structure recited in Claim 1 obvious.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

FIG. 1

